

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 547 - SB 589

June 5, 2020

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Restores voting rights of persons convicted of certain infamous crimes upon receipt of a pardon or completion of any sentence of incarceration, parole, or probation. Requires the pardoning authority, the warden, agent or officer of the incarcerating authority, or a parole officer or another officer of the supervising authority, to issue a person convicted of certain infamous crimes a certificate of voting rights restoration upon release. Requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to communicate certain information to the Secretary of State (SOS) relative to newly-eligible releases at least twice monthly. Requires the SOS to communicate eligibility with the appropriate county administrators of elections. Requires county administrators of elections to verify with the SOS that a person not submitting a certificate of voting rights restoration is eligible to vote.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures –\$28,000/FY19-20
\$56,000/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$100,000/One-Time*

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (017531): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Specifies that a person described in Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-29-204 is never eligible to register to vote in Tennessee. Creates a process for certain individuals to have the right of suffrage provisionally restored and outlines process for the provisional restoration. Effective January 1, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-29-202, a person shall not be eligible to have voting rights restored unless the person has paid all restitution to any victims, has paid all court costs due at the conclusion of the person's trial, and is current on all child support obligations.

- The proposed legislation would authorize such right to be restored provisionally if the person enters into a payment plan to pay outstanding obligations and authorizes the court to revoke such provisional right of suffrage if the person willfully fails to adhere to the terms of a payment plan after the court offers the person the opportunity to be heard and to submit proof of the person's financial inability to pay.
- Provisional restoration of voting rights for such persons will not result in any significant fiscal impact to state or local government.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/amj